

From: Thea Hunter [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 December 2024 1:58 PM
To: sentencingcouncil
Subject: STOP the courts using Good Character References for Perpetrators of Abuse & Sexual Assaults

I support the submission to STOP the courts using Good Character References for Perpetrators of Abuse & Sexual Assaults.

#YourReferenceAintRelevant #justice

I Support the amendments to section 11(4) of the Sentencing Act 2017, so convicted perpetrators of child sexual abuse can no longer “exploit the legal loopholes” that allow them to rely on good character references.

Please join this fight to STOP offenders of DV & Sex Assaults using 'Good Character' references to minimise their charges.

Good character is actually part of the crime, it facilitates the abuse, it enables these child sex offenders to get into contact with the child and groom not just the victim, but their entire support network around them,

I'm aware that in most states, people in positions of authority like religious leaders, teachers or scout masters have been banned from using good character references.

But family members, step-parents or neighbours are still well within their rights to do so.

Character references are little more than someone's personal opinion about another person, rather than an objective fact.

In stark contrast, the sexual abuse of a child is undeniably a heinous crime – one that often carries a life sentence for its victim-survivors.

Each state and territory has its own nuances, but this campaign (Your Reference Aint Relevant) is aiming to change that.

Please support this!

Kind Regards,

Thea Hunter

Thornlands QLD 4164